Grant-in-aid		Expenditure (in crores)
Plan	Rs. 125.81	Rs. 126.21
Non-Plan	Rs. 123.50	Rs. 183.14

Of the above, the expenditure on salaries is Rs. 128.09 crores. The remaining amount is spent on providing medical facilities, teaching and research. As far as research is concerned, expenditure is also met through extramural grants from national/international agjencies like the DST, ICMR, UNICEF, WHO etc. A sum of nearly Rs. 18 to 23 crores every year is rasied through them for this purpose.

(e) Yes, Sir.

Trade with Countries of the Common-wealth of independent states

1. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have taken to enhance India's trade with the countries of the commonwealth of Independent States;

(b) whether it is a fact that a programme was launched on 1st April, 2003,

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have identified any bilateral interest and investment; and

(e) if so, the details of the-areas of mutual interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Government of India has taken a number of steps to improve the trade with countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States which *inter-alia* include:

- promotion of dialogue including discussions at the highest level;
- constant review of biletaral trade at the Government level through Joint Commission/Sub-Group meetings.

* promotion of direct business contacts by way of exchange of delegations, Joint Business Councils, holding of and participation in exhibitions, fairs, buyer-seller meets etc.

(b) to (e) Yes Sir, for enchancing India's trade with countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, a programme "Focus: CIS" has been launched on 31st March 2003 at the time of announcement of EXIM Policy for the year 2003-2004. The "Focus: Programme" aims to focus at the countries of the CIS region with emphasis in the first phase on seven countries, *viz.* Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan &'Ukraine.

The programme will focus on the following major product groups/ services for enhancing India's exports to countries of the CIS Region:

FOCUS PRODUCT GROUPS:

- Plantation crops;
- RMG of various textile material;
- Drugs & Pharmaceuticals;
- Machinery and Instruments;
- Leather and its products;
- Cotton Yarn, Fabrics, and other textile items;
- Agriculture products;
- Plastic & Linoleum products;
- Cosmetics/toiletries;
- Ayurvedic/Herbal products;
- Packaged edibles;

FOCUS TECHNOLOGY/SERVICE SECTORS:

- Telecom and Information Technology;
- Food Processing;
- Oil and Gas Sector;
- Professional Services;
- Construction and Related Engineering services;

- Educational Services;
- Environmental Services;
- Health Related and Social Services;
- Recreational, Cultural and Sporting Services;
- Other Business Generating Services;

The programme aims to increase interaction between the business entities of the two regions by identifying areas of bilateral trade and investment. The exports to the Region are envisaged to be enhanced through combined efforts of Government of India, India Trade Promotion Organisation, Export Promotion Councils, Apex Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Indian Missions and Institutions such as EXIM Bank, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) etc.

The programme is in the initial stages of its implementation. Only 3 months have passed since the launch of the programme & it is a very short span of time to identify outcomes of the launch of the programme in terms of identification of bilateral interests and investments, growth in export etc.

Details of the programme are available on Department's website, *www.commerce.nic.* in under the head Trade Promotion Programme'.

Export of limestone from Rajasthan

2. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that limestone export from Rajasthan has been on a gradual decrease due to the decision by Government to reduce import duty and hike rail and ocean freight charges;

(b) if so, the details of the limestone export during the past five years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps Government are willing to take to revive limestone exports in the near future?